

A Tribute to Missouri

(Written for the University Missourian by Judge J. M. Lowe of Kansas City, President of the National Old Trails Road Association.)

It may be true that Missouri does not advertise as she should, never spreads her wares before a curious public, nor yet does she herald her misfortune, when she has any, in order that she may attract attention. Possibly she is a little too modest or self centered—slow, her critics would say—but she does not "hunt game with a brass band," and is generally there "with the goods" while others are still discussing ways and means. Her eulogists have been held up to ridicule for rating her as an "Imperial Commonwealth," but she makes good all that can be said in her praise.

Among such a wealth of riches it becomes embarrassing to choose what to mention and which to leave out, but no summary, however brief, should fail to mention as first among her jewels her splendid seat of learning—the State University—and particularly should be mentioned the Agricultural College. No state has a better one nor one doing a greater service. This department alone is doing more to demonstrate the state's resources than any other agency. It has accomplished greater results with less money than any similar institution in this country. If the people knew what a splendid work is being done, what magnificent and real empire building is going on at Columbia, the appropriations for its sustenance would place her University beyond the reach of necessary apology or calumnious criticism.

Of her vast and varied material resources we can only mention a few, leaving many of almost equal importance unmentioned. She leads all the states in the number of fruit trees, yet this fact is seldom mentioned. She has the largest nursery in the world. In poultry she exceeds any other state, her wealth from this source amounting to nearly \$50,000,000 annually. No wonder the Missouri hen is a theme of poetry and song. She mines more zinc and lead than any other state. She leads in the production of cobalt and barites. She grows more corn and cotton combined than any other state; and these are the two principal crops grown in this country. If corn is King, cotton is the Queen of crops.

She has one county that ships more strawberries than any other county in America, while two of her counties produce more corn than is grown in twelve other states combined. She leads all the states in mules, save Texas, and Texas covers all of one corner of the United States. She ranks fifth in horses, sixth in cattle, and only the great corn states of Iowa and Illinois lead her in hogs. She ranks third in corn, and is destined to rank first, and then she will be first in hogs also.

Her farms produced in 1911—and 1911 was a bad year because of the drought—crops worth \$302,091,450. Add to this enormous product of a single year the value of her live stock and poultry amounting to \$740,065,085, and we have the staggering amount of \$1,042,156,535. Her farms, consisting of 24,528,000 acres, are valued, on a 40 per cent basis, at \$1,445,982,389.

Missouri is one of the few states which constantly increase their yield of wheat, while most of the states show a constant decrease. She also shows a continual increase in the production of corn by more than 200 per cent for the last few years, thanks largely to her Agricultural College. Her possibilities along these lines are beyond imagination.

And best of all—for this is final demonstration of real progress and real development—Missouri has improved more miles of common roads in the last five years with only two exceptions, than any other state in the Union. She has more miles of macadam in one county than any other county in the United States. There are more miles of macadam roads in one county of Missouri than there are in the four states of Kansas, Illinois, Iowa and Arkansas combined. While other states have been quarrelling over locations and over ways and means, Missouri without state or National aid has gone on building roads. I am not trying to be disrespectful to sister states, but to "provoke them to good works."

But she intends to have National aid too, not only for her navigable waters and for reclaiming the swamp lands, but for building roads as well. This she intends to have, not by "crooking the pregnant hinges of the knee that thrift may follow fawning," but by demanding that to which the people are entitled, a share in the expenditure of their own money, coming from their own pockets by an ingenious system of taxation. This we intend to have or know the reason why. Constitutional objections do not apply.

The Ocean-to-Ocean highway is as certain as the decrees of fate. Missouri is also leading the way in building this great trans-continental highway. Most of it will be constructed across this state during this year, and finally finished by the opening of the Panama Exposition in San Francisco in 1915. Missouri is never prodigal in giving advice to others. She says to other, "Come, join us in this great work. It will do you good and bless your posterity to the remotest generations." It is no longer "Poor old Missouri" proclaimed by the slanderous tongues of hostile politicians, but grand, glorious and magnificently triumphant old Commonwealth! She has seen the travail of her soul during the dark and bloody days of war but out of it all she has risen, and sits resplendent upon a regal throne, unapproached and unapproachable in all that goes to make and sustain a prosperous, homogeneous and harmonious state. She is the envy of her critics and the wonder of the ages. She sits enthroned as the cornucopia of the great Missouri and Mississippi valleys and extends a blessing and a welcome to all peoples everywhere to come and partake of the grandest heritage ever bequeathed to the sons of men.

The great river which laps her eastern border was years ago compared to a "sleeping" giant, with his left hand hanging over the top of the Alleghany Mountains, his right hand hid in the crevices of the Rockies, his head pillowed upon the icy lakes of the North, while his feet were bathed in the tepid waters of the Gulf of Mexico; but the figure of a "sleeping" giant no longer holds good. He is wide awake and fast gathering in his mighty arms the vast products of this great central empire and carrying them on his bosom to the markets of the world.

Our Neighbors' Business

The Girl Scouts of Mexico take mile jaunts at times and eat breakfast in the country before time to come to town for school. The Boy Scouts are building a cabin to be used for encampments.

The Liberty Advance tells of a woman at a dinner who suddenly developed appendicitis. She had noticed the cherry seeds at the plates of the other guests, but she evidently had swallowed all the seeds in the cherries she had eaten. It was explained that the second jar opened, from which her dish of cherries came, contained seedless fruit. The woman was well immediately.

Stuart Collett a survivor of the Titanic who was on his way from England to William Jewell College, has not arrived yet, according to the Liberty papers.

Judge Ralph Latshaw of Kansas City walked five miles to be on time to judge a debate between William Jewell College and Baylor. The train passed Liberty while Judge Latshaw was eating supper in the dining car. He discovered that the next stop was on the wrong side of Liberty, so he got off and walked back.

A railroad engine exploded at Slater recently, resulting in the injury of several persons and a wholesale smashing of shop windows near the track.

The H.O.O.F. Club, composed of Paris women has endorsed Frank McAllister for attorney-general. An enthusiastic political meeting was held by the women.

Blind Boone of Columbia is now touring Missouri. He is scheduled to give concerts at Paris and Lexington.

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